



State of Nevada – Department Of Personnel

CLASS SPECIFICATION

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>GRADE</u> | <u>EEO-4</u> | <u>CODE</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| PLANT PATHOLOGIST | 36 | B | 1.113 |

Under general direction, Plant Pathologists conduct identification, survey, detection, exclusion, control and eradication of economic plant diseases for the protection of the State's agriculture horticulture and native plants in accordance with statutory requirements, agency policy and accepted plant pathology techniques.

Plan, organize, conduct and evaluate periodic and continuing surveys and detection programs to determine the presence and distribution of specific economic plant diseases of regulatory significance to the State.

Inspect plants; walk through seed production or crop fields and select random samples; examine nursery items; respond to requests for assistance from the public and State and federal agencies; examine interstate or internationally transported plants, and perform visual assessment or laboratory diagnosis, in order to determine the presence, severity, treatment, and eradication of plant diseases, or determine the need for quarantine status.

Collect plant material; extract, isolate and identify nematodes for garlic seed certification, alfalfa seed certification and other crops; examine submitted plant samples and make recommendations and submit official documents.

Provide public education to interested agencies or groups including the general public on plant diseases, diagnostic techniques and enforcement of laws related to plant diseases.

Isolate the casual agent for plant disorders from collected materials; make plates, grow cultures, perform macro and microscopic examinations in the laboratory, and analyze test results in order to resolve disease problems and recommend appropriate treatment.

Maintain a comprehensive host pathogen index for documenting plant pathogens in the State.

Supervise Season Agricultural Inspectors as assigned.

Perform related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in plant pathology or closely related field and five years of professional experience in diagnosis of plant diseases; **OR** an equivalent combination of education and experience.

ENTRY LEVEL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES (required at time of application):

Working knowledge of: plant diseases and problems, macro and microscopic examination and analysis; laboratory equipment and procedures used in plant pathology; plant materials, insects and weed pests; isolation techniques of various plant pathogens. **Ability to:** diagnose plant diseases; train other personnel regarding plant diseases; coordinate work and exchange information with other agencies; provide phytopathological expertise in plant quarantine, nursery pests, crop pests, residential plantings and wildland plants; use stereo and compound microscopes and other laboratory equipment; recognize parasitic nematode damage to plants; analyze pathological information and determine significance of findings; coordinate laboratory duties and field programs; keep current with scientific publications, laboratory methods, and specifications for new tests; communicate effectively both orally and in writing concerning plant pathology to nursery and landscape associations, the general public and others; maintain a laboratory and make selective media and solutions.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES (typically acquired on the job):

Working knowledge of: agricultural production in Nevada; Nevada Revised Statutes, Nevada Administrative Code, and Division rules and regulations concerning nurseries and plant pathology; regulatory concerns and interstate movement of plant materials; Nevada environmental conditions as they affect plant disease; Nevada plant species, their growth requirements and environmental conditions. **Ability to:** work effectively with State, federal and private agencies and the general public; develop, implement and enforce regulations and statutes applicable to commercial nurseries.

This class specification is used for classification, recruitment and examination purposes. It is not to be considered a substitute for work performance standards for positions assigned to this class.

1.113

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| ESTABLISHED | 7/1/71 |
| REVISED: | 3/1/72 |
| REVISED: | 7/1/87-12P |
| | 10/17/86PC |
| REVISED: | 8/19/88-3 |
| REVISED: | 7/1/97P |
| | 6/4/96PC |